

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING RABBI GOPEN LIPOF

HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY, III

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2020

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rabbi Emily Gopen Lipof on her 80th birthday. An extraordinary woman who has raised a loving, still growing family, Rabbi Lipof has dedicated her life to strengthening her community and the world around her. As she gathers virtually with friends and family to celebrate her 80th birthday, it is my honor to play a small role in recognizing her.

At five years old, when most of us struggle to choose a favorite toy, Emily had already decided that she would be a Rabbi when she grew up. Not deterred by the lack of female Rabbis to look up to, she knew her calling and always strove towards that ultimate goal. Even as her path diverged throughout her early years as she built a family and a career in politics, she used her powerful voice and infectious personality to become a leader in her community.

After earning a bachelor's degree with four toddlers, Emily used the power of politics to shape her hometown of Newton, her Commonwealth of Massachusetts and her country. She served as campaign manager for her husband Michael's campaign for Alderman, Senator Edward Brooke, and Newton's longest serving Mayor, Theodore Mann. But still, she remained committed to her calling as a Rabbi.

In 1980, Emily organized a communal wedding for 60 Jewish couples from the former Soviet Union who had been denied a Jewish wedding in their youths. That powerful experience inspired her to reunite with her path towards becoming a Rabbi. So committed to her calling, Emily began commuting to and from The Academy for Jewish Religion in New York for one long day of classes. Despite the demanding, grueling schedule, she was ordained just five years later.

Just days after receiving semichah, she was offered a position as interim Rabbi at Ohabei Shalom in Brookline, becoming the first woman in the United States to be named senior Rabbi of a major congregation. For decades, she has continued to be a fearless, compassionate leader in her community. She founded the Temple Shalom Nursery School to help nurture young children and support their families. She married a gay couple on the very first day marriage equality became the law of our Commonwealth in 2008. And quietly, she has offered counsel and guidance to countless neighbors in need of support.

Happy 80th birthday to Rabbi Lipof. And on behalf of a grateful Commonwealth and country, I thank her for demanding better of, and for, us all. Enjoy the day.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF F. MICHAEL HOFFSCHNEIDER

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2020

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Madame Speaker, I rise today with Congressman MIKE THOMPSON to recognize the service of F. Michael Hoffschneider upon his retirement.

Michael grew up in Oakland, California, and enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1966. He served with distinction, rising to the rank of Sergeant and earning the position of Drill Sergeant. After Michael's separation from the Army in 1969, he attended the University of California, Berkeley with the assistance of the GI Bill. He graduated with a B.A. in Political Science in 1973, and began working as a Veterans Claims Examiner for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

With Michael's new job in San Francisco, he and his wife, Conny, settled in Pleasant Hill, California, where they would raise their family. While working for the VA, Michael further pursued his education, graduating from John F. Kennedy University with a Master's Degree in Public Administration. He continued to work his way up through the VA and eventually became the Veterans Service Center Manager at the Oakland Regional Office.

Although Michael retired from the VA in 2004, his work with veterans was not complete and he soon started working for the Contra Costa County Veterans Service Office. During this time, Michael assisted veterans with his many years of experience and wisdom and even served for a time as the interim County Veterans Service Officer. His work has helped train the next generation of Veterans Service Representatives, leaving a legacy that inspires those who follow in his footsteps. Additionally, to commemorate Michael's work with veterans, he was given honorary lifetime membership with the Vietnam Veterans of Diablo Valley as a Vietnam-era veteran.

Michael's work has impacted the lives of countless veterans and their families. Please join me and Congressman MIKE THOMPSON in congratulating Michael as he retires from the Contra Costa Veterans Service Office and thanking him for his dedicated service.

HONORING W.C. GORDEN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2020

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor W.C. Gorden.

W.C. Gorden was a native of Nashville, Tennessee, a former longtime football coach of Jackson State University and a member of the College Football Hall of Fame. Mr. Gorden was considered the school's winningest coach.

Mr. Gorden served in the U.S. Army before beginning his coaching journey in 1956.

Gorden led the Tigers from 1976 to 1991 and guided the football team to eight SWAC championships and nine NCAA Division I-AA playoff appearances. He had just one losing season.

Jackson State won its second HBCU national championship in 1985. He finished his storied career with a 119–48–5 overall record and was a six-time SWAC Coach of the Year. Gorden was inducted into the SWAC Hall of Fame in 1994 and the College Football Hall of Fame in 2008.

He was named to ESPN's Top 150 list of the greatest college football coaches of all time.

Gorden produced 29 NFL Draft picks at Jackson State, including Jimmy Smith.

Last month, the Jackson City Council voted unanimously to rename Jaycee Park after him in his honor.

Mr. Gorden, who was 90, died on October 23, 2020.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the late Hall of Famer, W.C. Gorden.

RECOGNIZING DONALD E. LAPLANTE FORTY-ONE YEARS SERVING DOWNEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2020

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Donald E. LaPlante, a long-time resident of the City of Downey who is retiring from his service as a member of the Board of Education of the Downey Unified School District representing Trustee Area No. 4. Donald served on the Board since December 1979. He was elected to ten terms on the Board, in years 1979, 1983, 1987, 1991, 1995, 1999, 2003, 2007, 2011, and 2015.

During his tenure on the Board of Education, Donald has served six times as president of the board; six times as vice president and six times as clerk. He has been a member of both the Budget and Audit Committees and has served on each for over 15 years.

Mr. LaPlante has also been actively involved in school board organizations during his time on the Board. In 2012, he was elected by his colleagues in the southern part of Los Angeles County as director for Region 24 of the California School Boards Association. Previously, he served as a member of the Delegate Assembly for the California School Boards Association for 28 years.

From 1997 to 1998, he served as president of the Los Angeles County School Trustees Association, representing all of the almost 500 school trustees in the county. Prior to that he served as vice president, secretary/treasurer

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